

# NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

## NOTES ON NEW BOOKS.

Among the various definitions given us by the poets for what is mortal and human—as "imperfect," "fallible," "weak," and all that—there is one more comprehensive than "finite." For this last includes not only all other mortals, but the very Critic; so that, even could he read, he cannot write every thing; nay, more—if he could write it, he could not print it; seeing that, in the very age of lamp-black, there is a limit to ink, and in the very era of rags, an end to paper. Possibly the eternal Muse—being a committee of nine—do compose (having evidently given up all original composition) to read what every body writes—to read it after publication, we mean; for it is too plain for doubt that they no longer have any thing to do with any body's works in advance. The all-knowing Muses do, then, we repeat, by possibility, as they are eternal, peruse all the new publications; as they govern of endurance are divine, and they can stand it; or, at least, may, as long as their father Jupiter shall hold his hand and let loose the fresh Dumas, or Sue, or James, or Dickens upon them. If, then, *metu gentis*, they read all—that goes to the *Leipziger*, and thence to that seat of Jove which is described in the *Dunciad*—all our own Cheap Literature—yes, all the Magazines for Miss and Milliner; and if, amidst the pangs of all this, they swear (as they must) a sweet celestial oath or two, such as was always giveth in the pagan sky (Jove often setting the example) and quite in practice upon *Parasurus*; if, in fine, they in full chorus (Phoebus singing base) cadmus, swear that they will let out Hecaton for a cattle-pasture and leave Agamemnon to be a frog-pond, why, then, of course, in their indignation (for they are jeful dames) they may have turned Reviewers, by way of retort upon Authorship the plagues which Authorship inflicts upon them. But even in that case, how are they to match the immensity of scribbling, and not only write as well as read, but print into the bargain, when all earthly printers already have their hands full? We are bold to infer, then, that they, as well as the National Intelligencer, must have fallen behind-hand—especially if they have, like it, had Congressional debates and speeches to supervise and print, with other duties of a daily political editor (including that of paying his workmen) to perform. We trust that this view of what would be even celestial difficulties in such a case will account to our readers for our having got in arrears in matters of Literature; and that our present effort to clear the matter up will bespeak to them our intention of attempting, during the pause from politics which is approaching, to rid off the critical accumulations which have for some time been gathering upon us. We shall, however, be constrained to proportion many of our notices rather to the actual pressure, or to the examination which it has been in our power to give each book, than to its absolute merits or the interest of its subject.

**"The Principles of Physics and Meteorology."** By J. MILLER, Professor of Physics at the University of Freiburg. First American edition, revised and illustrated with 358 engravings on wood and two colored plates. Philadelphia, Lea & Blanchard, 1848. 8vo. pp. 635.

For the purposes of the elementary study of a complete system of Natural Philosophy, the late rapid progress of discovery has rendered necessary a new book of instruction; and this one appears entirely to meet that want. It seems to us to supply, in method, illustration, and compass, all that the young student of Nature's forces can desire. With its assistance, and without the aid of those mathematical and algebraic processes which would else so much impede him by their difficulty to handle, he may master all the necessary facts, principles, and their applications. By a skillful selection, a due connection, and a power of very lucid exposition, the author has been able to treat, within this one volume, all the most important phenomena and theories that relate to Statics, Hydrostatics, Dynamics, Hydrodynamics, Pneumatics, Wave-motions, and Sound, the theory of Musical Notes, the Voice and Ear, Geometrical and Physical Optics, Magnetism, Electricity, and Galvanism, (including Magnetic Telegraphs and the Electrotype), Heat and Meteorology, Astronomy, it will be perceived, is excluded; and properly, as a subject too large to form but part of a volume. It is reserved for a separate treatise of the same sort; the design of the publishers being to print a series of such, that will include Weisbach's "Principles of the Mechanics of Machinery and Engineering," Kaupp's "Technology, or Chemistry as applied to the Arts and Manufactures," and various others, which will together form probably much the best popular code of the practical sciences that has yet been printed in our language. The illustrations, numerous and well-executed, make a capital feature in the plan.

**"PERFUMERY: its manufacture and use."** With instructions in every branch of the art, and recipes for all the fashionable preparations. The whole forming a valuable aid to the perfumer, druggist, and soap manufacturer. Illustrated by numerous wood cuts. From the French of Celnat and other late authorities. With additions and improvements, by CARPENTIER MORITZ, practical and analytical chemist. Philadelphia: Carey & Hart, 1847. 12mo. pp. 285.

More "spiritual" (as we complacently style it) than the ancients—less addicted than they to whatever can minister physical delights—we moderns have, in comparison, suffered certain of what we have called the lesser senses—those less positive and permanent in their perceptions—to be almost extinguished, to go out of exercise; or, at least, to depend upon chance, not art, for their enjoyments. The sight is less solicited on all sides by objects of grace or grandeur—the multiplied creations of the imagination, voluptuous and airy forms, breathe less about us. In all the accommodations of life, the colder shapes of mere utility prevail. We still, to be sure—

Breathe the rich fragrance of the blushing rose,  
And quaff the pendant vintage as it grows;  
But the luxury of smelling and imbibing is but little known to us as it was to Cleopatra, when she sailed down the Cydnus before breezes loaded with every exquisite scent, and to Heliogabalus, when, from cups of sculptured gold and gems, he poured for his rose-crowned guests all the thousand wines of Italy and the East. Why folks should any longer be jealous of the honor of their nostrils, and resent a tweak, one can scarcely see, now, when they themselves treat them as entitled to such slight consideration, and turn them into little but dust-holes into which tobacco is to be thrust, in utter contempt of the indications of Nature, who would surely have inverted those cavities, if she had meant them for any such vile use. Can it be that a member to which a position so distinguished has been assigned—which Nature has sedulously placed upon the eminence of the countenance, thence superintending the mouth like a great captain-general, with the ears to guard him on either hand, and the eyes to stand his vigilant sentries above—should be designated only to be pulled or stunk? Is it not clear that his peculiar knowingsness must have been conferred upon him for higher, his peculiar delicacy for happier purposes? All honor, then, to Mr. Moritz! He is a friend of the Nose, a retriever of its dignities and honors, a restorer of its fortunes, and would gladly, in his devotion to that feature, see all mankind set out on a quest for lordlier ones to that famous fair in Rabelais, where the most stupendous ones might be purchased, or to that Proconsulory in Slawenburgh, where they grow so long that, when one of them sneezed, its owner's ears were too far off to hear the explosion!

Certain it is, at any event, that the ancients treated their noses much better than we do. Nearer to Nature and its freshness of all the sensations, their senses were probably livelier than ours. There was a time, in the early ages, when men's ears were movable, like those of horses or hares; but when that was vulgarly termed civilization began, and people cultivated other faculties to the neglect of the primitive ones, then this perfection of being able to shift about the porches of hearing in order to meet each sound was lost. A vestige of the fact is still preserved, however, in the Roman phrase, *arctius auribus*; that is, "with pointed ears;" for, beyond a question, such an expression as to the ears of men when eagerly listening could not have arisen, except at a period when ears had not yet forfeited this erectile power. Possibly, too, a part of this diminution is due to the gradual curtailment of ears since pillories came into use; for Nature will not produce things in vain. Were successive generations to cut off their right legs, there is no doubt but that, by-and-by, people would be born with only one, like that African nation described by Herodotus. So much for the hearing, and in like manner of the smell: there are still barbarian races (so called) which retain that sense uncorrupted and undecayed, so that they can follow a "cold trail" as well as the best fox-hound. Indeed, there must have been much of this primordial keenness of scent among the Republicans of Mr. Jefferson's day; for he, by a very beautiful figure, says that "they could at any time snuff tyranny in the tainted breeze." At present, a Jeffersonian Republican can seldom smell any thing but his dinner of the spoils.

Pushing to the utmost refinement the whole science of enjoyment, the Greeks and Romans turned to voluptuous account the scent, in common with all the other senses. Disdaining no agreeable sensation, they least of all neglected those to be derived from the most ethereal of the faculties, that which most easily of all arrives at a sort of intoxication and yet can repair it the soonest; a delight which circumscribes with the utmost languor of enjoyment all other assembled gratifications, and embalsms music, and the banquet, and wine, the light of beauty and of wit, luxury, pomp, and every thing else, in a sort of atmosphere of bliss. The air of their chambers of feasting breathed fragrance, sometimes shaken from the wings of birds let loose for the purpose: perfumed fountains tossed up other sweets; the bodies of the guests were steeped in ambrosial unguents; their heads were crowned with garlands that dropped odors. What an era that would have been for Mr. Moritz! Out and alas! that he should have fallen upon this snoutless generation, this period of pugs, this snub-nosed century, when, before the ravages of the most degenerate of diseases, men will shortly have nothing left to blow, and barbers no wherewithal to hold by.

In the East, however, Nature has ever preserved her old beneficence to the nostrils: it is still, as of yore, the clime of sweet smells, of spices, and myrrh, and frankincense; of "groves whose rich trees dropped odorous gums and balm;" a land that may, at sea, be smelt further than it can be seen—as Milton describes, when Satan is first drawing nigh it:

"So lovely seemed  
That landscape; and of pure no purer air  
Meets his approach, and to the heart inspires  
Vernal delight and joy, able to chase  
All sadness but despair: no native gales  
Fanning their odoriferous wings disperse  
Native perfumes, and whisper whence they stole  
Those luscious spoils. As when to them who sail  
Beyond the Cape of Hope and now are past  
Mozambique, off at sea northeast winds blow  
Sabeian odors from the spicy vales  
Of Araby the blest; with such deluge  
Well pleased, they slack their course, and many a league  
Cheered with the grateful smell old Ocean smiles."

If any body wants, however, all the sweets of the Orient inventoried, let him get the *Lalla Rookh* of master Moore: whose descriptive powers and methods are to Milton's much as an essence-vender's catalogue is to the Vale of Damascus, or of Enna, or the purple land of Cashmere. It is just the difference between the poet and the perfumer.

As our country is by no means one where  
Sea-born gales their gelid wings expand  
To winnow fragrance round the smiling land,

we welcome Mr. Moritz and the arrival of one more exotic art which he brings, just as we have often before hailed the progress of Opera and Cookery. These are the consoling parts of the "Progress," the compensations which Civilization bestows for declining public spirit and the decay of all that rough virtue, without which political freedom seems not able to subsist. Come! let us have powders and pomatums and patches, wigs, and essences and washes, oils and savonnets and pastilles and political cosmetics, to paint and plaster up the early wrinkles of our public vice, the haggardness of our social debaucheries.

The New York "Courier and Enquirer" denounces the absurdities of the Subtreasury, and depicts the mischief it does. The money market and the currency, it says, are put by it under the control of Mr. WALKER, and the power he has under it is too great for any one human being. The "Courier" says:

"The absurdity of the Subtreasury system is daily witnessed in the carrying from the banks to the custom-house and back again the demand for gold and silver. If perchance one or more of these pieces should not be American coin, he is sent back to replace them, and must again wait his turn ere he can conclude his business. So, in the case of the payment of the semi-annual interest on the public debt, are the drafts on the Treasury. We have known old gentlemen who were obliged to wait at the time of the payment of the six months' interest several hours, and we know of a case where one who was entitled to thirty-five dollars half yearly on his stock, was obliged to stand three hours before he could receive his money."

"Besides the individual injury it inflicts, it is of more serious injury to the money market. At this time the payments to the custom-house for duties are large, but the payments by the Government are slow, and the accumulation of nearly three millions of dollars, most of it taken from the banks, is a very serious and alarming evidence of the power of the system to do evil."

"The money market is contracted in consequence, and the stocks of the United States fall under the pressure."

The "Courier" then dwells upon this curious mode of locking up nearly three millions in specie, in Subtreasury vaults, when the use of it is needed for the business of the community.

**ANECDOTE OF JOHN JACOB ASTOR.**—"Do you ever trust, Mr. Astor?" inquired Mr. K. "I do not trust strangers, sir," was the reply, "unless they furnish satisfactory city references." "Then," quoth Mr. K., "the skins I have selected must suffice for this time," and, paying for the same, he departed. In the afternoon of the same day, just before the sailing of the New Bedford packet, the young trader returned for his list of furs. Throwing the whole pack on his back, he left the store, but had not proceeded far, when he was overtaken by Mr. A., calling his name, bidding him come back. "Sir," said Mr. A., "you can have credit for any amount of goods you require, provided they are to be found in my store." "But," stammered Mr. K., "but, my dear sir, I can give you no city references; I am a stranger here." "I ask no other recommendation," responded the rich merchant, "than that already furnished by yourself. The man who is not above his business need never hesitate to apply to John Jacob Astor for credit." Thus commenced a trade between two merchants, which was continued to the mutual satisfaction and advantage of both for a long term of years. Mr. K. is now one of the most eminent capitalists in New Bedford. (New York Evening Post.)

A considerable number of passengers from New Hampshire now come to New York by way of Nashua and Worcester. (Mass.) without passing through Boston, through tickets being sold at Nashua for New York. There are now some twelve miles of staging to be done on that route; but soon probably the entire distance from Nashua to New York will be passed by railroad, and a connection will be formed with the extended lines of railroad which reach far into New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine, from Nashua.

## THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.

We are rejoiced to see a publication from this new Institution, which we may now say has fairly commenced its sphere of usefulness, by issuing a volume which is as creditable to the "Regents" by whom it is conducted, for securing so valuable a work as it is to its authors. The work alluded to is a volume in imperial quarto, the size of the Congress edition of the "Exploring Expedition," and forms the first of a series to be entitled "The Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge." The particular subject to which this volume is devoted is the "Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley," comprising the results of extensive original surveys and explorations." By E. G. Squier, A. M., and E. H. Davis, M. D.

We think the officers of the Institution could hardly have selected a more appropriate memoir with which to begin the series, than one devoted to researches among the aboriginal remains of the United States. The subject is not a new one, it is true, but the disjointed and confused accounts which have been written of these remains, and the imperfect surveys which have been made, have rather discouraged than promoted a taste for further investigation. In fact many believe that little more remained to be done in Western antiquities, and that our own Indians were as likely to have raised the mounds and earthworks of the Mississippi Valley as any other race of men.

Messrs. Squier and Davis, living in the vicinity of these ancient works, determined on a more thorough survey and exploration; several years were devoted to the task—more than two hundred mounds were opened to their base—upward of a hundred enclosures of earth, of various dimensions, from 10 to 300 acres, were surveyed and measured, and some thousands of interesting relics were collected. To many these relics possess the greatest interest, as they exhibit a skill in the arts such as no savage people of which we have knowledge has ever attained. But we attach a greater interest to the vast earthworks which exist along the bottom lands of the Ohio and its tributary streams. These enclosures, which are made with banks of earth, are of various forms; some square, some circular, others octagonal, and in some instances, owing to the form of the land, they present irregular shapes. The purposes of these works it is difficult to conjecture. The larger ones enclose a space sufficient for a great city, and may have been thrown up to protect a settlement of people or an army. Some of the smaller ones were undoubtedly intended for fortifications, being protected by mounds at each opening or gateway, and other means, resembling those employed by the ancient Britains and Romans. Again, we find some that appear to have been connected with religious ceremonies.

The explorations of Messrs. Squier and Davis were exclusively in Ohio; but they have given accounts of many ancient works in Kentucky, Virginia, Tennessee, South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, and Wisconsin from surveys by others. In Wisconsin are those remarkable earthworks in the form of animals, the object of which it is so difficult to determine. These are found on the open prairie, and seem to represent bears, buffaloes, and other animals. In one place are ten or twelve of these huge animal-shaped mounds, from 90 to 120 feet in length, in a line with each other. Others seem to have been intended to represent birds with extended wings of great dimensions; and in a few instances they represent the human form. One of these has its arms and legs extended, and measures one hundred and twenty-five feet in length, one hundred and forty feet from the extremity of one arm to that of the other, and thirty feet across the body.

The surveys of works in the Southern States are of great importance, and exhibit so striking a resemblance to the terraced stone edifices or *teocallis* of Mexico and Yucatan that one is led to believe them the work of the same race of men. The ancient works in Louisiana, however, are made of sun-dried brick and earth, and display less skill in their construction. As we advance northward to the valley of the Ohio the general character of the constructions is found to be the same, though they are made entirely of earth, neither stone nor brick being used in any of the mounds or terraced works. It would require more space than the columns of a newspaper will permit to describe or even enumerate the wonders which are brought to light in this splendid volume; and we cannot but express our regret that these interesting objects of an ancient race which once inhabited the fertile valleys of the West have not before been made known. This volume contains forty-eight copperplate and lithographic plans, surveys, views, &c., and two hundred and seven wood engravings of articles found in the mounds, such as implements of war and husbandry, ornaments of copper, silver, shell, clay, &c. There are also engravings of sculptured rocks almost equal to the celebrated one at Dighton, Massachusetts, claimed by the Danish antiquaries to have been the work of Scandinavian voyagers in the tenth century; in fact, the analogy is so striking that the credulous will no doubt carry Erik the Red and Thorfinn Karlsefne over the Alleghenies to the more tempting regions along the Ohio, and there plant them; or, in modern parlance, let them squat and become progenitors of the numerous and powerful race that raised the innumerable mounds and other works of which we have been speaking.

A few remarks on the Institution from which the great work has emanated seem necessary before we close. It appears, by the notice prefixed to this volume, that it is the intention of the Regents to lend their aid to the increase of knowledge, and to "stimulate research by offering rewards of money, medals, &c. for original memoirs on all subjects of investigation." 2. "To appropriate a portion of the income annually to special objects of research, under the direction of suitable persons." 3. "To publish a series of reports giving an account of the new discoveries in science, and of the changes made from year to year in all branches of knowledge not strictly professional."

As we have observed, the Regents of the Smithsonian Institution could not have commenced its series with a more appropriate work. We learn that other "memoirs and volumes are in preparation, some of which will be put to press immediately. These are on the physical sciences, and are the result of elaborate study, research, and experiment, and emanate from the most distinguished scholars in our country. The volume of Messrs. Squier and Davis, as well as the other works from this Institution, is to be sent gratuitously to the learned societies and public libraries of Europe, in order that a communication and mutual exchange may take place between them, by correspondence and by their respective memoirs and "transactions."

We hope that the antiquarian research which has been so well carried on, and with such good results, may be extended to the Southern portions of our country, and that the gentlemen who have distinguished themselves by their explorations at the West, may be induced to go on with their researches at the South.—Commercial Advertiser.

**PROFESSOR AGASSIZ**, one of the greatest of modern naturalists, has been delighting our learned men by his valuable contribution to science, at the meeting held in Philadelphia for its promotion. His remarks upon the fishes of our lakes are truly valuable. Some time ago we remember reading an account of his first visit to Niagara, and his seeing there for the first time a garpike. He now asserts (if he is reported correctly) that North America is the only country where this fish lives—probably he said where this particular species lives. This would be correct. He also said that the garpike is the only representative of the period when "that fish only lived." He added that he had discovered twelve new kinds of fishes in Lake Superior.

**ADRIEN**, the great composer of AGASSIZ, is now residing at Harlem. His house is a perfect museum of natural history. We regret to say his powerful mind exhibits symptoms of sudden decay. His personal health is good.—N. Y. Post.

**PALEY'S NATURAL THEOLOGY A PAMPHLET.**—A correspondent of the London Athenaeum has discovered that this work is copied from a series of papers which appeared about the end of the seventeenth century, in the *Leipziger Transactions*, by a Dutch philosopher named NIXE-WARTER. It is extraordinary that this discovery was not made before, seeing that the papers, after having been published at Amsterdam, about the year 1760, were afterwards translated into English by Mr. Chamberlayne, and published by Longman & Co. in 1819, about fifteen years after Paley's Natural Theology appeared. As Paley quotes Dr. Nienhuys from the *Leipziger Transactions*, he, of course, must have known of and perused them. Parallel passages are printed side by side in the Athenaeum, for the purpose of proving the case.

## DEATH OF THE HON. WILLIAM J. GRAVES.

FROM THE LOUISVILLE JOURNAL, OF SEPTEMBER 28.

It becomes our painful duty to announce the death of the Hon. WILLIAM J. GRAVES. He died at his residence in this city yesterday morning at 8 o'clock, after a long and very painful illness.

Mr. GRAVES was well known throughout the Union as an able, enthusiastic, and devoted advocate of the Whig cause. From 1837 to 1841 he represented this district in Congress, and became most favorably known to the whole country by his vigorous and successful efforts on the floor of the House of Representatives. His power in that body was deeply felt and universally acknowledged. In eloquence he had some superiors, but in moral courage, in vigor of purpose, in the bold and daring pursuit of what he believed to be right, he had scarcely an equal.

In 1841 Mr. GRAVES declined being a candidate for reelection to Congress, and removed from Henry county to this city. His convictions of the righteousness of the Whig cause were warm and deep, and he was most unwearied and energetic in his efforts to impress them on other minds. He labored in the Presidential contest of 1844 with more than remembered, and, but for the disease which prostrated him in the beginning of the present contest, he would have fulfilled his duties as one of the State electors with signal ability and efficiency. He was always ready and ardent in the performance of any services his political friends required at his hands, and his strong sense, his unflinching sagacity, his unrelaxing industry, his indomitable spirit, his wonderful power of physical endurance, and the extraordinary force of his iron will, rendered him upon all occasions the life and soul of his party. While confined to his bed during the present political contest, he continued to regard passing events with the deepest interest. In his death the Whigs of Kentucky have sustained an irreparable loss—they have lost one of their most uncompromising and powerful champions and efficient orators, and his memory will long be cherished by thousands with feelings of affection and admiration.

Contrary to the advice and the earnest remonstrances of his physicians, Mr. GRAVES attended the Whig National Convention which nominated Gen. TAYLOR, and took a profound interest in its proceedings. On his return home, he was prostrated on a bed of sickness and suffering, which it was the will of Heaven he should not leave in life. During the progress of his disease, a very general sympathy was manifested by his fellow-citizens in his welfare, and the announcement of his death yesterday morning, although it did not surprise any one, thrilled thousands of hearts with emotions of sorrow and regret. His mind was calm and collected, and he regarded the slow but sure ravages of disease without terror; and the full summons that called his spirit away from the scenes of life was received by him with the resignation of a Christian.

Mr. GRAVES has left a wife and children, toward whom in their deep affection our citizens will cherish the most kindly sympathies. His funeral will take place this morning from his late residence on Walnut street. His body will be carried to Henry county where he formerly resided, for interment. In this brief notice we have spoken of him principally as a politician, for it was as a politician that he was best and most extensively known; yet he was distinguished for his private virtues, his benevolence, his charity, his magnanimity, his devotion to his friends, his public-spiritedness, and by all the many traits of character that adorn and dignify human nature.

The Circuit and Criminal Courts met and adjourned yesterday morning without transacting any business, as a token of respect to the deceased.

## DEATH OF COMODORE JAMES BIDDLE.

FROM THE PUBLIC LEDGER.

We regret to learn the Captain JAMES BIDDLE, of the Navy, recently returned from the command of the Pacific station, died in this city on Sunday night last. Capt. BIDDLE was a native of Philadelphia, where he always resided when not actively employed in the service. He was one of the oldest Post Captains upon the naval register, on which he holds the sixth place. He has seen much service, and frequently distinguished himself in the cause of his country. He was the son of CHARLES BIDDLE, Esq., of Philadelphia, and was born in February, 1783, being sixty-five years old at the time of his death. He entered the service as a Midshipman in 1800. He was on board the *Philadelphia* at the time it fell into the hands of the Algeris, and was confined a prisoner in that country for eighteen months. Upon his release from captivity he was promoted to a lieutenant. In 1806 he made a voyage to China as captain of a merchantman.

In 1810 he took charge of the *green sloop-of-war*. In 1811 he went to France as bearer of dispatches. When the war of 1812 broke out he joined the *Wasp*, Capt. JONES, and after the capture of the *sloop-of-war Frolic*, was ordered to take charge of the prize, but her crippled condition made her and the *Wasp* an easy capture. A British seventy-four, the *Poictiers*, which bore in sight. The Legislature of Pennsylvania voted a sword and the thanks of the Commonwealth to Lieut. BIDDLE for his distinguished gallantry in this action. The Legislature of Maryland also took honorable notice of him, and the Society of Cincinnati elected him an honorary member of that body.

Upon his exchange he was promoted to the rank of master commandant, and commanded the gunboats in the Delaware to protect the bay from the incursions of the British. He was appointed to the command of the *sloop-of-war Hornet*, and was one of those blockaded in New London. While lying there Capt. BIDDLE repelled a challenge from Capt. MEXXES, of the British *sloop-of-war the Loup Cervier*, for an equal fight between these vessels, but the *Loup Cervier* sailed away before the preliminaries were settled. The *Hornet* succeeded in eluding the vigilance of the British fleet, and arrived at New York, where she is attached to the command of Com. DECATUR, and ordered to the East Indies.

It was during this voyage that on the 23d of March, 1815, the *Hornet* engaged his gigantic Majesty's brig *Penguin*, and captured her after a gallant action, in which Capt. BIDDLE was wounded. In the following April he was chased by a British seventy-four, but escaped with the loss of armament, which obliged him to return New York. During his absence he was promoted to third of Post Captain. In 1817 he was dispatched to the Columbia, to take possession of Oregon. In 1820 he went to Constantinople to sign the commercial treaty with Turkey.

From the year 1838 to 1844 he was in charge of the Naval Asylum on the Schuylkill. Recently was in command on the Pacific station, and returned Philadelphia in March last, in bad health, from the effects which he never recovered. It has been the distinguished character of this gentleman to exert in the public service an unobtrusive activity and an ardent enterprise which surmounts every obstacle and crowns his enterprises with success.

Commodore BIDDLE was a tall slight frame and delicate constitution, but of an indomitable will, which sustained him through trials and hardships which greater physical strength might have failed. As officer, he was unparagoned in courage, acquisitions, and skill; and, as a man, his spotless honor and noble qualities of mind and heart gave him a distinction not inferior to his personal reputation. Philadelphia may well mourn his loss as one of the most distinguished of her sons.

Lieut. J. F. SCHENCK, U. S. N., bearer of despatches from the Pacific to our Government, arrived at Philadelphia on Saturday in the barque *Emilium Kingston*, Jamaica.

LOUIS PHILIPPE, late King of France, it is said in the *Niagara Courier*, has purchased Stamford Park, in that district, and will shortly establish his residence there. More unlikely things have happened, but dare say our readers will not believe the rumor until it is confirmed. Stamford Park was the summer residence of St. MAITLAND, when Governor of the upper province of Canada. It is a very pleasant and healthful situation, and may be made equal to Louis Philippe's favorite residence at St. Cloud.

SAD ACCIDENT.—Two sons of Mr. James Harrison, keeper of the Western Hotel, in Court street, New York, were seriously injured on Saturday night, near their father's residence, on Bergen Hill. It so that a tar barrel had been lighted on the occasion of a post procession, and, while it was burning, the younger of the two, very thoughtlessly, for the purpose of making a more brilliant flame, threw into the burning mass a bottle full of oil. The consequence was a terrible explosion, setting the burning mass in every direction and very dangerously lighting both of the young men.

## OFFICIAL.

SOLDIERS' BOUNTY LANDS.

FROM THE "UNION" OF YESTERDAY.

Soldiers who have served in the war with Mexico, and are entitled to the bounty land or Treasury scrip, so generously and justly awarded to them by the late laws of Congress, are naturally anxious to obtain their warrants with the least possible delay. Patriotic men in every State of the Union participated in that honorable service, and are entitled to its reward. After their discharge they have returned to their homes, and are now dispersed throughout our country. These circumstances have, we presume, caused the soldiers to transmit their papers to the Commissioner of Pensions generally through the hands of agents, and the agents are of course eager to commend themselves for the employment by expediting the settlement of the cases confided to them.

We have observed in some of the public prints complaints of delays in the transaction of business at the Pension Office. We have inquired into the subject, and find that every exertion has been made to expedite the issue of these warrants.

Up to the 27th of September, 1848, inclusive, the whole number of applications filed is..... 55,794  
(From the 1st to the 27th of September alone 7,793 were filed.)

To the same date the warrants issued were..... 33,833  
Remaining to be disposed of..... 21,961  
The estimated number yet to be filed is about fifty thousand more.

The arrangement of the business of the office requires great care to prevent confusion, and to guard against frauds on the rights of the soldier, as well as of the Government. The examinations and registers necessary to these objects, and the reference in every case to the original rolls, will not admit of the employment of a larger number of clerks than are now engaged in that business. We learn that the utmost anxiety has been felt by the Executive to expedite this particular branch of the public business as rapidly as is compatible with the certainty that the bounty land shall go the soldier who earned it, and not to any one who may not be entitled. Many attempts to defraud the rightful claimants have been detected.

With untiring devotion to the duties of the office, the Commissioner cannot have more than two hundred and fifty issued each day. Last year the Secretary of War employed eight clerks in addition to those allowed the office by law, who agreed to look to an appropriation by Congress for their pay. The appropriation was made, and twenty-seven clerks are now employed in this particular business, which are found to be as many as can work without interfering with one another.

The effort has been made to relieve those soldiers who have come to the seat of Government, by taking up their cases at once; but this has attracted such large numbers that the public business has been retarded rather than expedited. This state of things, and the belief that equal justice to all will ensue—to those at a distance as well as to those near the seat of Government—has induced the Secretary of War to issue the order which we annex.

We venture to suggest to the soldiers that their rights are valuable, and will be faithfully protected by the Government; that their business will be done and the necessary documents sent to them with the least practicable delay; that it is unnecessary for them to incur the expense of a journey to Washington and of remaining here. We advise them not to sacrifice their right by a sale at a low price. A warrant for one hundred and sixty acres, at the minimum price of the public lands, is receivable at the value of two hundred dollars. The law authorizes Treasury scrip for one hundred dollars to issue to each soldier entitled to one hundred and sixty acres of bounty land, if he prefers it. They are and will continue to be of ready sale at a good price, and need not be sacrificed.

To enable soldiers at a distance to transact their own business, we have procured and subjoin the forms to be observed. If they will comply with these directions, and enclose them with their discharges by mail, directed to "J. L. Edwards, Esq., Commissioner of Pensions," they may feel assured that their business will be done, and the warrant, with necessary instructions, be transmitted to them by mail, free of postage, or to such post office as they may name:

PERSON OFFICE, MARCH 4, 1847.  
In order to carry into effect the provisions of the 9th section of the act of the 11th February, 1847, allowing bounty land or Treasury scrip for service in the war with Mexico, the Secretary of War has directed that the following regulations shall be observed:

It will be observed, on reading the 9th section of the law, which accompanies these regulations, that there are six classes of persons provided for, viz:

1. Those non-commissioned officers, musicians, and privates of the regular army who have served or may serve in Mexico during the present war, and who have been or may have been discharged, or who may have been or may be honorably discharged before the expiration of the period of their enlistment, in consequence of wounds received or sickness incurred in the course of such service.
2. The representatives of such persons as are mentioned in the preceding paragraph who may die in the service, or after being discharged, and before the issuing of a certificate or warrant.
3. Non-commissioned officers, musicians, and privates who have been mustered, or may be mustered, for twelve months in any volunteer company, who have served or may serve in Mexico to the end of the war with Mexico, and have been or may be honorably discharged by reason of the expiration of their enlistment, or in consequence of disability from wounds received or sickness incurred in said service.
4. The representatives, as designated by the act, of such volunteers as shall have died or may die in the service, or after having been honorably discharged, and before the issuing of a warrant or certificate.
5. Volunteers received into the service since the commencement of the Mexican war for less than twelve months, who shall have marched to the seat of war, and shall have served until honorably discharged.
6. The representatives, as designated in the act, of volunteers received into the service for less than three months, and who may have died in the service, or after having been honorably discharged, and before the passage of this act.

In order to substantiate a claim for land or scrip, under the provisions of the foregoing section of the act, the persons described in the first class of these regulations will send to or deposit with the Commissioner of Pensions, Washington city, evidence of enlistment, service, and honorable discharge, as required by law. The best evidence on these points is held to be the original discharge of the applicant, which, in all cases, be produced if in existence, accompanied by the applicant's affidavit, setting forth that he is the identical person mentioned in the discharge; and in case of the loss or destruction of the discharge, the applicant will make oath to the fact, and produce the affidavit of some credible witness in corroboration of his statement. The claimant must set forth the regiment and company to which he belonged; the time of entering the service; the time, place, and manner of his leaving the same; and he must show by the testimony of a commissioned officer that he was honorably discharged.

In case the claimant should desire scrip instead of land, he must make his request in writing, according to the form marked A, accompanying these regulations. The rules in the paragraphs immediately preceding are applicable to volunteers mentioned in classes Nos. 3 and 5. The representatives of deceased soldiers and others, as mentioned in classes 2, 4, and 6, must produce evidence of the enlistment, service, and death of the original claimant. If in existence; if not, the same proof will be required as in other cases of lost discharges; and if he died in the service, the certificate of his captain or other officer who commanded the company to which he belonged must be produced.

The persons who may claim must produce evidence of their relationship to the deceased, and show the degree of consanguinity they bore to him. This proof must be drawn in conformity with the form marked B, and may be taken before any officer authorized to administer an oath.

**Declaration of the Soldier.**  
—of \_\_\_\_\_, county of \_\_\_\_\_,  
On this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, in the year one thousand eight hundred and \_\_\_\_\_, personally appeared before me, the under-

signed, a justice of the peace for the county and \_\_\_\_\_ above-mentioned, \_\_\_\_\_, who, being duly sworn according to law, declares that he is the identical \_\_\_\_\_ who was a \_\_\_\_\_ in the company commanded by Captain \_\_\_\_\_, in the regiment \_\_\_\_\_ commanded by \_\_\_\_\_; that he enlisted on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, for the term \_\_\_\_\_, and was discharged at \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, and subscribed before me the day and year above written.

Notes.

1. It is proper to state, for the information of claimants under the 9th section of the act of February 11, 1847, that, in every instance in which a volunteer soldier was discharged on a surgeon's certificate, that paper must be sent to the Pension Office, with the claimant's affidavit, unless it has been otherwise disposed of. If lost, he should state the fact, under oath.
2. The official character and signature of the magistrate who may administer an oath must be certified by the proper officer, under his seal of office. The certificate must accompany every case, and be attached to the paper on which the affidavit is written. No affidavit taken before a notary public can be admitted as evidence, except in the States of New Hampshire, Connecticut, Virginia, South Carolina, Wisconsin, and Indiana, in which States laws have passed giving such officers power to administer oaths for general purposes.
3. The relinquishment of the right to bounty land must be signed by the claimant, if the wishes of the claimant make the oath of identity required by the regulations, and add to the statement as to his service the following words: "I never received any discharge